TOP SECRET

817

S-Sec

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## NEAR EAST - AFRICA

1. PALESTINE: Arab refugee problem held "catastrophic"—
US Representative McDonald in Tel Aviv expresses the opinion that the Arab refugee problem is rapidly reaching catastrophic proportions and should be treated as a disaster. McDonald estimates that of the approximately 400,000 refugees, 100,000 will perish during the approaching winter. McDonald believes that present and prospective relief and resettlement resources are completely inadequate and that the whole problem should be turned over promptly to the International Red Cross.

NO CHANGE in Class.

A DECLASSIFIED

Class.

Auth: 777

Date: 16 MAR 1978

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